

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

In **amended Claim 1** the **adsorbent** is selected from the group consisting of a **strongly basic anion-exchange resin, and a weakly basic anion-exchange resin**.

In contrast, Barker et al (CA 2,052,435) fail to disclose or suggest the use of a strongly basic **anion**-exchange resin, and a weakly basic **anion**-exchange resin. All that Barker et al disclose is a “solid **non-ionic** polystyrene adsorbent.” See Amberlite XAD-4 and XAD-16 at page 15, lines 4, 17 and 22 of Barker et al.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1, 4-9, 11 and 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Barker et al is believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 1 and 4-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, is obviated by the amendment of Claims 1 and 10 and moot with regard to cancelled Claim 12.

The rejection of Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, is respectfully traversed. “Degree of bitterness” is explained in detail on page 19, lines 15-25, of the specification. Accordingly, the scope of this phrase is clear from the specification. This rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge that the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement, filed in the above-identified application on **March 11, 2002**, have been considered. For the Examiner’s convenience a copy of Form PTO 1449 as filed on **March 11, 2002**, is attached herewith.

In addition, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge that the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement, filed in the above-identified application on **March 30, 2004**, have been considered. The Examiner did sign and date the Form PTO-1449 in question. However, **reference AW was not initialed**. For the Examiner's convenience a copy of Form PTO 1449 as filed on **March 30, 2004**, is attached herewith.


This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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